

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 21, 2004

For immediate release

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## **MANURE SPILL IN HANCOCK COUNTY**

BRITT – Hog producer Klinton Patterson had a manure spill Wednesday evening and again on Thursday during land application of manure from his confinement site.

On Thursday, a dragline hose broke, spilling between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons of manure about eight miles northwest of Britt. The manure ran into a gully, under the road through a culvert and entered a drainage ditch, which is a tributary of the Boone River.

Most of the manure was contained behind a beaver dam. Patterson is pumping the manure from behind the dam and spreading it into an adjacent field.

DNR inspector Eric Wiklund said that most of the manure will be recovered and land applied. There was no sign of a fish kill on Thursday afternoon.

The DNR will continue to monitor the site and take legal action if appropriate.

**For more information, contact Eric Wiklund at (641) 424-4073.**

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON TWO IOWA LAKE WATER QUALITY PLANS**

DES MOINES — Plans for improving water quality at Mariposa Lake in Jasper County and North Twin Lake in Calhoun County will be discussed at meetings Oct. 26 and 28, respectively. Comments on the draft plans will be accepted until Nov. 5.

A draft TMDL — or Total Maximum Daily Load — has been developed for each of these lakes. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use, such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming, or being used as a drinking water supply.

TMDLs also include plans on how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts in the respective watersheds. After receiving public comments, the TMDL will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

Mariposa Lake  
Oct. 26  
9:00 a.m.  
DMACC Sodexo Conference Center, Room 210D  
Newton

North Twin Lake  
Oct. 28  
6:30 p.m.  
Coral Reef, 2419 220th St.  
Rockwell City

A copy of the draft TMDLs can be obtained and comments made using the following resources:

- Internet: [www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html)
- E-mail: [chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us)
- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.**

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## **APPROACHING DEADLINE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

DES MOINES — The deadline is quickly approaching for the 2004 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. This premier environmental awards program, sponsored by Governor Vilsack and the State of Iowa, recognizes leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

Awards will be given for overall environmental excellence and special recognition in water quality, waste management, energy efficiency/renewable energy, air quality and habitat restoration/development.

Categories for the awards include:

- Agriculture (operation, farm or other ag-related business or organization)
- Community/Local Government
- Small Business or Industry (up to 200 employees)
- Large Business or Industry (more than 200 employees)
- Institution/Public Sector Facility (hospital, college, school, etc.)
- Service/Civic/Nonprofit Organization (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, etc.)

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

The application deadline is Nov. 5, 2004. To obtain an application, go to the Web site [www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html), or **contact: Jill Cornell, Department of Natural Resources (515) 281-0879; e-mail: [Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us)**.

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## **DNR TO HOST METHANE-TO-ENERGY WORKSHOPS**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hosting two workshops for Iowa pork producers and animal science students on “Methane Recovery from Hog Waste Integrated with Combined Heat and Power Technologies.” The sessions will focus on environmentally friendly waste management and emerging technologies used to capture methane for generating heat and electrical power.

Jim Bodensteiner from the Iowa DNR calls the waste-to-energy process “an idea whose time has come” for certain livestock operations.

“The state of Iowa is number one in pork production in the United States,” said Bodensteiner. “We produce 28 million hogs a year, or a quarter of all the pork produced in the U.S. last year. Our hog industry also accounts for over 86,000 jobs and a yearly payroll of three billion dollars. But we also produced about 81 million tons of manure from Iowa's animal confinement operations last year. Managing that output has become a growing economic and environmental issue.”

The workshops will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) in Sioux City and on Thursday, Nov. 4 at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

The morning session of the workshop will address waste-to-energy conversion and the afternoon session will focus on converted methane for energy use in the afternoon.

Funding for the workshop has been provided by a U.S. Department of Energy Midwest Regional Office grant. Workshop sponsors include the Iowa Pork Producers Association, Alliant Energy, the Iowa Agriculture Innovation Center, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa State University Extension, the Iowa Energy Center, the Midwest CHP Application Center and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Registration is free for students and \$10 for all other attendees. Participants can register online at [www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/biogas/hom.html](http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/biogas/hom.html). **For more information, please contact Jim Bodensteiner at (515) 281-8416 or at [Jim.Bodensteiner@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jim.Bodensteiner@dnr.state.ia.us).**